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LEMER TO COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

LTC NO. 089-2011

Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM:

Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE:

April 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Status Update of the North Beach Dog Park Project

The purpose of this LTC is to provide you with a status update on the North Beach Dog Park Project. As you are aware, over the past several years our residents' requests for dog parks within the city has increased and our current inventory is challenged to meet them. The proposed North Beach Dog Park would provide an off-leash area for residents to exercise their dogs within a contained area, while socializing with other dog enthusiasts. Currently, the closest access to this type of facility for the numerous dog owners in the North Beach Area lies within Pinetree Park (45th and Pinetree Dr.) in Mid-Beach.

This proposed project is funded in the amount of \$91,875 as part of the adopted 2010-2014. Capital Budget & 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (\$87,500 dollars construction funds; \$4,375 contingency; Quality of Life Fund).

In order to determine the most suitable location within the North Beach Area of the City, the Parks and Recreation Department, with the assistance of Caroline DeFreze, Community Resource Coordinator, Office of the City Manager, contacted representatives of the North Beach community, including the North Beach Development Corporation and the North Beach homeowners associations. Mr. Daniel Veitia also assisted thru the utilization of his resident database.

Last August, an informal electronic survey was conducted to help assess the residents' preferred location for the proposed dog park, along with other site amenities that might be desired. We received 43 responses, and the information obtained was quite informative. Several site criteria and amenity desires were developed from this process, along with those from our professional experience and research. Namely:

- Space: the proposed location requires adequate room. The American Kennel Club
 (AKC) recommends a minimum of one acre for off-leash dog parks with a
 benchmark capacity of 25 dogs per acre where possible.
- Centralized: the site should be well within the North Beach Area.
- <u>Parking:</u> users want adequate available parking that would not tax existing parking patterns.
- <u>Pedestrian-friendly</u>: ADA sidewalk access and road crossing signals that provide the opportunity to walk the dogs to the facility were highly desirous.
- <u>Shade</u>: tree canopy within and adjacent to the off-leash area is important to provide temperature relief.

Additionally, the list of requested amenities identified in the informal survey included: two separate double gated enclosures, one for dogs under 25 lbs. and the other for larger dogs; dog friendly seating benches; dog drinking fountains; trash receptacles; dog waste stations; and nearby restroom facilities. Skill and training equipment was also listed as a desire, but they were not high demand items.

On September 28, 2010, a publicly noticed community meeting was held to review the outcome of the informal survey results. During the meeting it was apparent that the majority of those surveyed wanted the off-leash area to be located at either:

- The Southern entrance to North Shore Open Space Park (NSOSP) between 79th to 81st
 Street to the West of the Miami-Dade County Operations location; or
- The Dickens Avenue and 73rd Street site surrounding the existing Community Garden.

Based on the applied criteria, informal survey results and community meeting, North Shore Open Space Park was deemed the better of the two locations. This location can accommodate a dog off-leash area of over 1.3 acres, allows for user parking, provides safe pedestrian access, is shaded and restrooms are located nearby.

At this time the Parks & Recreation team has moved forward with the preliminary design phase of the project, with a site survey completed and preliminary sketches of a conceptual dog off-leash park plan in process. This project would be designed and the construction managed inhouse by the Parks and Recreation Department's Greenspace Management Division. Rhonda Gracie, Landscape Projects Coordinator, will act as the Designer/Project Manager. We are also working with the Planning Department to ensure the design meets their criteria. The construction will follow the receipt of all required approvals of final design. The physical construction timeline is approximately 90 days from the final approvals.

A Community meeting to present the draft plan and seek input and comments from our residents is currently scheduled for 6:00 PM April 28, 2011, at the North Shore Park and Youth Center (See attached flyer).

The results of the Community meeting will be presented to the Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee for a discussion and final direction.

Please advise if there are questions, comments or concerns.

JMG/HMF/KS/JO/rg
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Attachment

Hilda M. Fernandez, Assistant City Manager
 Kevin Smith, Parks & Recreation Director
 John Oldenburg, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

MEETING NOTICE NORTH BEACH DOG PARK

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Residents interested in reviewing and providing input to the proposed plans for the North Beach Dog Park. Residents will have the opportunity to provide input regarding design site space planning, materials and amenities.

DATE: Thursday – April 28th, 2011

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: North Shore Park & Youth Center

501 72nd Street

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

City of Miami Beach
Parks and Recreation
Department Greenspace Management Division
305.673.7730

To request this material in accessible format, sign language interpreters, information on access for persons with disabilities and/or any accommodations to review any document or participate in any city-sponsor proceeding, please contact 305-604-2489 (voice) or 305-673-7118 (TTY) five days in advance to initiate the request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Services).